

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/915,157

Examiner

Ryan A. Jarrett

Applicant(s)

SLECHTA ET AL.

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 4/21/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 1, the last sentence of paragraph [03] was deleted.

On page 9, lines 1-5 were deleted.

In the claims:

In claim 4, line 1, "Claim 4" was replaced with --Claim 3--.

In claim 10, line 2, "providing" was replaced with --provided--.

In claim 11, line 1, "workers" was replaced with --individuals--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

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4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a system and method for instructing a plurality of individuals involved in an assembly line changeover, comprising an animation showing the movement and steps to be taken during a changeover, the animation including a schematic representation of the assembly line and a number of representations, or icons, of the individuals who are to effect the changeover, in combination with the remaining features and elements of the claimed invention.

Claims 7 and 11 were previously indicated as allowable for this reason. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 3 to contain this allowable feature. Regarding claim 1, although the claim does not explicitly recite that the animation contains "representations" or "icons" or the individuals, the claim has been amended to recite that the animation shows the "**movement** and steps the individuals will need to make to complete the changeover". Thus, this necessarily implies that some sort of iconic representation of the individual workers exists in the animation. Solanki et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,553,376 does not disclose the use of individual icons representing the workers on the assembly line. Rather, Solanki et al. discloses movement and direction required for the components used in the changeover (e.g. col. 3 lines 8-11, col. 3 lines 19-23), not the movement of the individual workers themselves.

Additionally, regarding claim 15, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an instructional system for providing instructions to a plurality of individuals on an assembly line comprising a plurality of color-coded instructions containing the instructional steps which are to be taken by the individuals during a changeover of the assembly line, and

each of the individuals being associated with a color coding and being provided with the color-coded instructions that correspond to their individual color coding.

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan A. Jarrett whose telephone number is (703) 308-4739. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00-6:30 M-F.

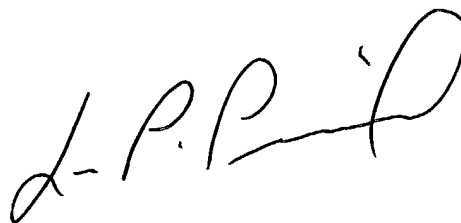
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (703) 308-0538. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2125

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan A. Jarrett
Examiner
Art Unit 2125

5/22/04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. P. Picard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

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